

Following in Franklin's Footsteps

A guide for teachers and parents to use with their
groups.



The Power of Words Action

Words into

Visit several of our historic sites and experience the life of Benjamin Franklin in the
places he knew best!



Welcome! We're glad that you are visiting Independence National Historical Park. First, to help you have the most enjoyable visit possible, here are a few **helpful hints**:

- Get your **free** timed tickets to Independence Hall first. This will help you to better plan out the rest of your day. (Available in the Independence Visitor Center.)
- Be aware that you will have to go through the **security screening facility** on Market Street, between 5th and 6th Streets before visiting the Liberty Bell and Independence Square. Allow enough time for this and help the line to move more quickly by emptying your pockets and removing coats. (Allow 45 minutes to one hour before your tour).
- Since our sites are located in a busy city, please be extra careful when crossing the streets. Watch your step: some of the pavements are uneven, just like they were in the 18th century!

- Some of the structures that you will visit are nearly 300 years old. Please take care to insure that your children's children will also be able to visit these sites and learn about the life of Benjamin Franklin in the future.

Ready? Let's go! You'll begin at **Franklin Court**, where Benjamin Franklin lived and worked in Philadelphia. Head east on Market Street as you exit the Independence Visitor Center.

On the way to **Franklin Court**, begin your historical conversation by asking your group:

- What do you already know about Benjamin Franklin?
- Franklin was born in 1706. About how many years ago was he born?
- In what city was Franklin born? (Did you guess Philadelphia? Many people do, but Franklin was actually born in Boston and came to Philadelphia when he was 17. He met his future wife, Deborah, on his first day in Philadelphia.)
- Benjamin Franklin always loved using words to persuade, to make people think, to entertain people, and to make people laugh. Franklin really understood that words are powerful! What job do you think Franklin had when he was old enough to work? At what age do you think Franklin started working at this job?
(Franklin was actually working at age 12 in Boston as an *apprentice printer* to his brother. By 1729, at age 23, Franklin owned his own newspaper right here in Philadelphia, called The Pennsylvania Gazette. He was so successful as a printer that he was able to retire at the age of 42.)



Stop #1: The Printing Office
322 Market Street 15 minutes
(Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 1 through June 29, 2004)
 (South side of Market St between 4th and 3rd Streets)

Stop here to see the method by which Benjamin Franklin printed newspapers. Franklin's wife, Deborah, worked with him in both his printing office and post office. At that time, it was common for businesses to be run out of the home, and women often helped run the business and run the house. Franklin considered Deborah to be a great help to him in his work.

Think about it! Ask about it! Talk about it!

- How long would it take to print one newspaper?
- Were only men allowed to be printers, or were there any printers who were women?
- Who printed the first Declaration of Independence that had the signers' names on it?
- What was the *circulation* of Franklin's newspaper?
- Ask to see the "type". How long do you think it would take you to put together a sentence using these letters?
- What is an almanac? Take a look at Poor Richard's Almanac.
- What sections of a modern newspaper did Franklin also use?

Stop #2: Archeological Display 318 Market Street 15 minutes
(Open 9:00 a.m.-noon March 1 through June 29, 2004)

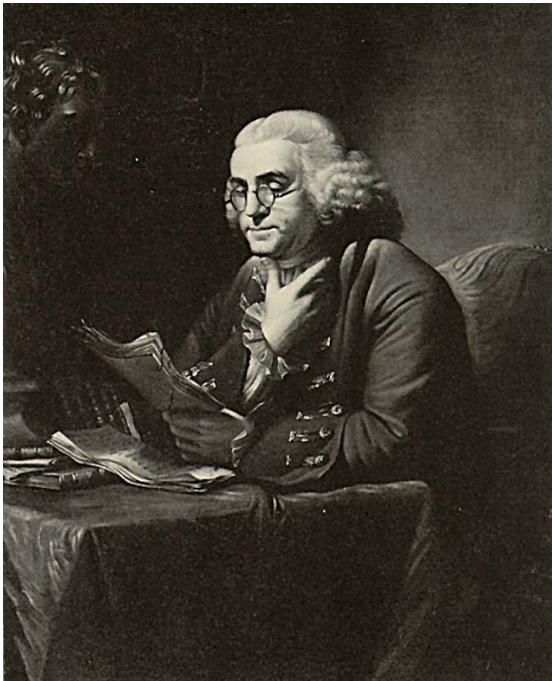
Benjamin Franklin was always interested in comfort and safety, and is well known for finding ways of helping everyone in the community. He helped start and was a member of the first fire company in the nation, right here on Market Street. He built the houses here at 316, 318, and 322 Market Street to rent to others, and he had them built with fire safety in mind. He also started the Philadelphia Contributionship for Insuring of Houses from Loss against Fire.

Archeological excavations began at Franklin Court nearly fifty years ago and continued until 1974. Through archeology, over 30,000 *artifacts* dating from the late 1600s up to the 1900s have been recovered and recorded at Franklin Court, including everything from two-handed jugs to Coke bottles. Today you can see some of these objects up close by visiting the museum at 318 Market St. or you can walk around the courtyard and look into the *excavation units* (pits).

Be a History Detective! Look around you, observe, and learn!

- Near the bottom of the steps, look straight up. You'll find four *chimney flues*. These were used all the time, and having separate flues for each floor is much safer than one flue.
- Look up at the ceiling. You will see a trap door. How was this used and why? (People could open this door and use water to put out *embers* [hot ashes] and prevent the spread of fire from a neighboring rooftop. Rooftops were made of wood, and fires could spread quickly.)
- What did Franklin have placed on both sides of the *floor joists* (the large beams across the ceiling)? (Horsehair plaster was placed there to slow the spread of fire.)

- 318 Market Street has **archeological** displays. What is the study of archeology? What do archeologists do?
- What can you learn by studying the artifacts **excavated** from Franklin Court? What specific objects can you find in the display that can help you to learn about daily life in the 18th century?
- Have you found Franklin's **sedan chair** yet? You can sit in it and try it out. It is a **reproduction**, and not Franklin's original chair. That's why you are allowed to touch it and sit in it!
- As you journey throughout the park today, look for **fire marks**. These are metal plaques attached to the outside of buildings that show that the owner has paid for their **fire insurance** (Fire insurance protected you if your house was burned down by giving you enough money to build a new house.) Fire marks had symbols on them to show which fire insurance company you had paid for your insurance policy. See how many of these fire marks you can find on buildings as you walk around the park today. How many different kinds did you find?



Stop #3

Underground Museum at Franklin Court 10 minutes

(Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

March 1 through June 29, 2004)

- Visit the large room and find two of Franklin's inventions. How did they help make people's lives better? Do we still use any of these inventions today?
- How did Benjamin Franklin become "Doctor" Franklin? (A photograph of Franklin's honorary degree from Harvard is on display.)



BRIGHT IDEA!!

Franklin Movie

22 minutes

If you don't have tickets for Independence Hall, stay longer at the Underground Museum and watch the 22 minute movie about Benjamin Franklin's life.

Stop #4 Life in Franklin's Day 18th Century
Whalebone Alley and Harmony Lane 15 minutes

- Leave Franklin Court and go south down the alley toward Chestnut Street. When you look across Chestnut St, you will see Whalebone Alley, where you are going next. However, for your own safety, do not jaywalk. Please cross at the corner with the traffic light. Thank you!
- In the 18th century, women wore *corsets*, which were sort of like a girdle. There was a shop on this street that made corsets using whalebones.



BRIGHT IDEA!!

Visit Carpenters' Hall

(Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The second building on your right is Carpenters' Hall where the First Continental Congress met in 1774. Benjamin Franklin was in England at the time and did not attend. However, in December 1775 after his return to Philadelphia, he slipped into Carpenters' Hall on three different nights to have secret meetings with a French agent. He was trying to get the French government to help the colonies in their revolution against Great Britain. It worked!

- Continue walking and notice a large gully in the grass on your left. This is the location of Dock Creek, a *tidal creek* that flows in and out of the Delaware River, although it's buried now. In Franklin's day, everyone would throw their trash and their waste into this *basin*. Keep in mind that there were no sewer systems back then. Dock Creek was full of stinking *refuse*, and Franklin spent a great deal of time trying to better the *sanitation* in the city.
- At the end of Whalebone Alley, go right on Harmony Lane. Directly behind you was once the Harmony Fire Company, and on your right was the tannery. Do you know what a tannery is? (A tannery is the series of shops that process cattle to make fine leather goods.) This process smelled awful and really stunk up the neighborhood. Where do you think the cattle remains ended up? (Yes...Dock Creek!)
- The last brick home on your left is where Dolley Madison once lived before she married James Madison. Her name then was Dolley Todd. A few of her younger siblings lived with her along with her two young sons and a law clerk who assisted her husband, lawyer John Todd. John ran his law practice from an office on the first floor their home. Look around the side and back of the house. What do you think the backyard looked like in the early 1790s when the Todds lived there? (This house was built in 1775, so Franklin would have been familiar with it. However, Benjamin Franklin died in 1790 and so he was not alive when the Todds actually lived there.) **If you have time during this or another visit, ranger-guided tours of the Todd House are available. Ask for times at the Visitor Center. Tours last approximately one hour and include the Bishop White House.**



BRIGHT IDEA!!

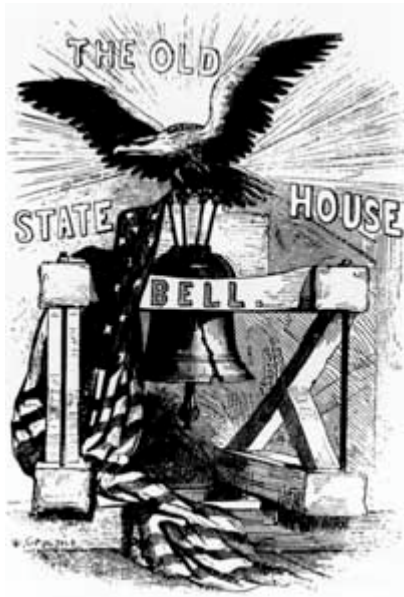
Visit Christ Church

(located on 2nd St. above Market St.)

Open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Franklin owned a *pew* at Christ Church, and he made sure that his daughter Sally worshipped there. Sally loved to read and enjoyed playing the *harpsichord*, which is similar to a piano. During the American Revolution, Sally raised money to support the Continental Army, and supervised the sewing of 2,200 shirts for American soldiers. The church's steeple, financed by a lottery organized by Benjamin Franklin, was the tallest structure in the colonies for 83 years.



Stop #5 The Liberty Bell Center

15 minutes (not including security check)

There is one security checkpoint located on Market St. between Fifth and Sixth Sts. for both the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

(There are no public restrooms available after you have passed through security. You may want to use the restrooms on the corner of 5th and Chestnut Sts. before entering the Liberty Bell Center and Independence Square.)

Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. March 1 through June 29, 2004

- When the Liberty Bell was originally ordered from England in 1751, no one called it "the Liberty Bell". What would Franklin have called this bell? (The State House Bell)
- At almost the same time that the Bell was arriving from England, a newly-elected lawmaker was also arriving at the Pennsylvania State House. Who was this new lawmaker? (Yes, it was Benjamin Franklin!)
- The first set of exhibits on your left contain two old letters. Can you find Franklin's name in them? Why is he named? What is he helping to buy?
- How did Benjamin Franklin know when it was time for him to go to work at the State House? (He heard the ringing of the bell.) From how far away do you think the ringing of the Bell could be heard? (The sound of the bell probably carried for about two square miles, or from river to river [the Schuylkill to the Delaware!].)
- The Liberty Bell was used as a powerful symbol by the *abolitionists* (a group of people who worked to end slavery). Benjamin Franklin had owned enslaved Africans, but later in life he opposed slavery and became the president of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society.



BRIGHT IDEA!!

Experience Independence Square!

(You must pass through security to enter the Square.)

If you don't have tickets for Independence Hall, visit the other buildings on Independence Square. Congress Hall, Old City Hall, and the Great Essentials Exhibit in the West Wing are all interesting and historically significant places to visit, and you don't need a ticket to get in! Rangers will be there to talk to you and to answer your questions.

The American Philosophical Society is also on Independence Square. The nation's oldest scholarly society, APS was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 "to promote useful knowledge." The APS has rotating exhibits and is open to the public. Spring and summer hours are: Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (weekdays enter on 5th Street /

weekends from Independence Square). Please limit your group to a maximum of 15 people when visiting the APS exhibits in Philosophical Hall.

Stop #6 Independence Hall 30 minutes (not including security check)
Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. March 1 through June 29, 2004

TIMED TICKETS REQUIRED from the Independence Visitor Center

This is a ranger-led program that includes the Assembly Room.

Security Checkpoint located on Market Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

You will go through the Liberty Bell Center, cross Chestnut Street with security personnel, and enter Independence Square. Please allow 45 minutes to one hour before your Independence Hall tour to pass through security. If you are already in the Liberty Bell Center, you can proceed directly to Independence Square. Please follow the directions of park rangers, who will assist you in crossing Chestnut Street.

- As you start your tour of Independence Hall, you will begin in the East Wing. Look for Benjamin Franklin in the painting at the back of the room. What important event is happening in this painting?
- As you enter Independence Hall, look at the stairs. Despite his advanced age and frailty, when he was president of Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council, Dr. Franklin's office was on the second floor. He was sometimes carried in by prisoners from the Walnut Street Prison in a contraption known as a *sedan chair*. (Do you remember the sedan chair from Franklin Court?)
- What did Benjamin Franklin say on the last day of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 about the chair with the sun carving on it? Was he really talking about the chair and the sun, or was he talking about something more? What did he mean?
- Benjamin Franklin's final public act was in 1790 when, as president of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society, he sent a letter to Congress asking them to end the slave trade and to free enslaved Africans. Franklin died on April 17, 1790 and is buried in Christ Church Burial Ground (5th and Arch Streets), where 20,000 mourners attended his funeral (about half of Philadelphia's total population at that time!).

We hope you have enjoyed following in Franklin's footsteps during your visit to Independence National Historical Park! Please let us know how you liked this drop-in activity packet. Was it helpful? Did it make the park's story and the park sites more meaningful? Did it make your experience more enjoyable? Please give us your feedback by going to our web site at www.nps.gov/inde and visiting the Education Section. We'd love to hear from you!

Coming soon!!

If you enjoyed this packet, please check back at the Independence Visitor Center from time to time. New packets will be available in the coming months on Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, African Americans and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia, and other topics.

If you are interested in learning even more about Benjamin Franklin, here are some suggested resources that you may enjoy. As Franklin wrote, “**Genius without education is like silver in the mine.**”

Web Resources

Franklin Court: Franklin's Life

http://www.nps.gov/inde/Franklin_Court/Pages/franklinprinter.html

Franklin Court: Kids' Corner

http://www.nps.gov/inde/Franklin_Court/Pages/kids.html

Ben's Guide

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/benfranklin/>

Benjamin Franklin: Glimpses of the Man

<http://sln.fi.edu/franklin/rotten.html>

Benjamin Franklin

<http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/>

Print Resources

Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life

by Candace Fleming

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?

by Jean Fritz

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares (Step into Reading, Step 4)

by Frank Murphy

How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning

by Rosalyn Schanzer

Images

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN painted by an unknown French artist after Joseph Duplessis sometime in the 19th century. Collections of Independence National Historical Park.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN painted by David Rent Etter after Charles Willson Peale after David Martin around 1835. Collections of Independence National Historical Park.

"The Old State House Bell" sheet music written by Moeser and Weiland, published by Stayman & Brothers in 1855. Collections of Independence National Historical Park.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

March 2004